

Minutes of the 2006 YCC General Meeting

Thursday 16 November 2006

Main Auditorium, CERN

Agenda.

1. Election of the Chairman
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Approval of the Minutes of 2005 GM.
4. Discussion on 2006 Activities
 - a. Introduction.
 - b. State of the YCC fleet.
 - c. Courses.
 - d. Regattas.
 - e. Social Activities.
 - f. Jeûne Genevois Cruise.
 - g. New boat key system
5. Report on the 2006 Budget.
6. Report of the Auditors.
7. Discharge of the 2006 Committee.
8. Nomination of the 2006 Auditors.
9. Election of the 2007 YCC President.
10. Nomination of the 2007 Committee.
11. Fees for the 2007 Season.
12. Preliminary 2007 Budget.
13. AOB.

Attendance and Election of the Chairman.

The 2006 YCC General Meeting opened at 18:10 in the Main Auditorium. An attendance sheet was circulated among the participants. Forty-five members were present and four had sent apologies. (List kept by secretary.)

Giovanni Cervelli, ex-Committee Member, was unanimously elected Chairman of the 2006 GM.

Approval of minutes 2005

The minutes were approved, with no changes.

Discussion on 2006 Activities.

Tomasz Ladzinski introduced the discussion by noting that core activities, mostly the courses which we run, had gone well. Indeed, the newly introduced lottery system for allocation of places had been particularly successful, weighting a candidate's first choice so that secondary choices did not stand as good a chance against a category that someone else had chosen first. Tomasz noted that external regattas had been a disappointment, from the point of view of participation, at least by comparison with previous years. Sebastian Lopienski had, however, coordinated a series of very good internal regattas, succeeding in getting different organisers for each one. Boats had had

mercifully little down-time this season, with proportionate beneficial effects on the budget (down-time often correlating to repairs, sometimes expensive!). There had been no serious damage, and Tomasz congratulated the membership on what he saw as an overall heightened sense of responsibility.

State of the YCC Fleet.

John Fullerton detailed the state of the fleet, again noting, as for last year, that the whole fleet was in a better condition than it had been a year ago - although, conversely, also a year older. Discussion of potential dinghy replacement would come later in the meeting, but it was nice to report higher overall use of the fleet.

There was nothing noteworthy about the events of the season for the other types of boat.

Courses.

Marco Silari reported that all courses were oversubscribed, as we have come to expect. Applications rose slightly over last season: 167 against 152; 75 places were offered but for various reasons, 70 students ended up enrolled. Start of courses was not helped by problems with the Q-boat in early days, despite efforts to have her completely revised during the winter. There is still a shortage of willing teachers, especially for the wetter boats. The proportion of successful tests and therefore new licences obtained remains remarkably constant year by year: it is however a low figure by comparison with courses completed and the new Committee will be asked to look at this. Speakers wondered if it was fear of the test, too much procrastination, regular bad luck with sailing conditions at the chosen time, or what - and only some of this is in Committee hands to improve. Another question was whether the one-to-one dinghy teaching would be continued: it was felt probably yes, as progress is proportionate to individual tuition. But wider use of teacher time in other ways is actively being contemplated at the same time.

Match Races and Regattas.

Sebastian Lopienski reported on the season of Regattas and the dinghy and Yngling Match Races, noting that the Surprise Match Race had had to be cancelled: this had been a considerable disappointment to the organisers and the Committee because of the advance work which had then been wasted. One other regatta had also been cancelled, the June Monthly II, this time because of too strong wind.

Other than this, the season had been a success, even if participation has fallen since a high point in 2003, while remaining fairly steady over the past three seasons.

Participation (excluding Match Races)

	Keelboats	Dinghies	Both
2003	48	40	88
2004	35	38	73
2005	39	38	77
2006	33	40	73

The YCC Championships were several times very closely fought over the season, as some of the results show. Jonathan Cook won the dinghy skipper's championship with 186,5 points, followed by Reiner Geyer with 151,8 and John Fullerton with 77,1. Dinghy crews are also listed, this time more closely: Jane Frost first with 95,1 points, Jamie Boyd with 82,1 and Sarah Fullerton with 77,1. We find it impractical to list keelboat crews in our championship, largely because numbers and participations vary so much, but keelboats skippers were handsomely led by Michal Kwiatek with 126,4 points, followed closely together by Suzanne Maurin at 84,8 and Mario Campanelli with 79,8 point respectively. In all cases, it shows that participation can often be a strong help towards accumulating points.

Particular thanks therefore to the Regatta Organisers, who thereby voluntarily (in most cases!) write off the chance of accumulating championship points: in order of regattas, Louise Adams-Cook, Gigi Rolandi, Mario Campanelli, Marco Benvenuti, newcomer Marleen van Nes, Sarah and John Fullerton, Michal Kwiatek (with the help of recent newcomer Haude Morel), Thierry Boileau and Sebastian Lopienski, of whom the last two nearly found themselves promoted to organising a second regatta! It is praiseworthy that several named nevertheless participated as competitors in regattas, and found themselves named in the preceding paragraph.

We would like to cite and thank the Q-boat drivers who helped in regattas: Juergen Buchenbacher twice, Sascha Schmeling also twice, Rob Veenhof ditto, and Manfred Willenbrock and Marco Benvenuti, and of course their respective crews in all cases. It can be quite hard work at times, depending on weather conditions, how deep the lake is at the point the buoys need to be set, but it is always interesting and rewarding work.

Sebastian noted that no big intentions of changes were made for the following season: the regatta schedule (a closely intertwined web with other Clubs, standard events, and the necessary permission from the Lake Police) would remain broadly similar. He will recommend to the new Committee some purchase of software for calculating regatta results, and possibly a slightly modified system of adding championship points up, since the current system perhaps favours individual races on a day to too great an extent. Of course we need more participants - we always do! - and Sebastian will welcome new ideas and proposals.

Nick Ziogas spoke for external regattas, where he noted that participation was also down from highs a few years ago. He commented that the logistics of a YCC boat (it has to be a Surprise) participating in the main Lac Lemman regattas require careful advance planning, but this year there had been little interest. Organisation tried to ensure that there would be a part-fixed crew in *Semaines*, both to ensure continuity and some availability of places to new enthusiasts. It was however true that YCC was still participating, in dinghy regattas, in the sense that several members who a couple of years ago would have used Club boats now had their own and were assiduously commuting to other lakes for championships.

Jeûne Genevois Cruise.

Sandro Vascotto described the voyage of the traditional JG Cruise for 2006 (see report elsewhere). The eastern Canary Islands had been chosen, with himself and Micheal LeVine, and Sascha Schmeling and Gijs de Rijk, skippering the two boats with fourteen participants. It had been a most successful new venture, with several "firsts": a lot of night sailing and a night passage, a new area, colder water (but still swimmable) than the cruise is accustomed to, some very high winds due to a funnel effect between the Canary Islands, and fewer opportunities for lunchtime anchoring (the Islands being volcanic and very steep-sided) - which provided practice in backing the jib and free-floating! On land excursions were interesting, including one day with honorary membership in the Royal Yacht Club premises (although HM was not present). Sandro's boat, for the record, ran 281 NM, of which 187 by sail and 94 by motor. The time spent at sea was 62 hours, of which 38 on sail and 24 on motor. The longest run was the last, 107 NM in 21 hours, plus 3 hours after a lunch-break.

Sandro mentioned a few options under consideration for the Jeûne Genevois Cruise 2007: other Canary Islands, Valencia (to encourage Alinghi), the North Sea. He noted that because of CERN activities around Jeûne Genevois, the option of moving the Cruise to June, for instance, deserved consideration.

Safety.

In the absence of Sascha Schmeling, Tomasz reported on the Surveillance Q-boat, and safety in general. There were now 36 M key-holders of whom 30 are active, and 21 did shifts (sometimes several) on the Q- boat. The decision to require students to do two Q-boat shifts before securing their "key" to a given category had not really proved the solution, more creating congestion towards the end of the courses period, with students more eager to do their duties than there were places available. This is to be reviewed.

Financial Report.

Luigi Serio reported on our Club finances and provided financial statements and his careful proposal for next season. Refer to the printed version of the YCC consolidated 2006 budget for details, circulated separately. He noted that income was artificially high over this exercise, because the CERN Staff Association had made two annual subsidies in the one period (some KCHF 10). Expenditure, including repairs, had been quite extraordinarily down, at - KCHF 20, all resulting in closing the season satisfactorily at + KCHF 60 - a sum the Committee will have no difficulty recommending spending.

Report of the Auditors.

Christian Carli and Wolfgang Lerche, as YCC Auditors, had confirmed the 2006 budget, Christian making a recommendation that increased funds should be made available for renewing the current ageing fleet. Giovanni proposed, and the meeting accepted, that Christian Carli and Wolfgang Lerche be appointed 2007 auditors.

Discharge of the 2006 Committee.

The YCC 2006 Committee was discharged, as having fulfilled its mandate (unanimous).

Election of the YCC President.

Tomasz Ladzinski was proposed and accepted unanimously as the 2007 President.

Nomination of the 2007 Committee.

Tomasz, in accepting, noted that any new Presidency went through a learning curve, which he hoped had not been too detrimental. He warned members that the next season was going to be a very busy one for himself, professionally, and that he would be relying on the Committee and membership for the fullest support. Tomasz thanked those members of the 2006 committee who were not standing for re-election: Anne Danois, Paul Mayoud and Jonathan Cook (whom he congratulated for the virtual rebirth of the dinghy section). He proposed a 2007 Committee, which was approved by the Assembly. Ulf Kracht spoke to the effect that the Committee proposed was too big to function efficiently, but due discussion endorsed Tomasz' view that activities had increased proportionately over the years. The members therefore are:

President: Tomasz Ladzinski. Vice-President: Gijs de Rijk, Secretary: Elena Gianolio, Treasurer: Luigi Serio

Committee members:

Allain Gonidec
Haude Morel
Enrico Bravin
Gennaro Ruggiero
John Fullerton
Michal Kwiatek

Marco Silari
 Marion Lindsay
 Nick Ziogas
 Reiner Geyer
 Rob Veenhof
 Sandra Sequeira Lopes Tavares
 Sandro Vascotto
 Sascha Schmeling
 Sebastian Lopienski
 Stefano Fratianni
 Tim Hancox

Portfolio responsibilities will be decided at the first meeting of the new Committee.

Fees for the 2007 Season.

The proposal that the 2007 fees remain unchanged with one exception, that temporary membership be raised to CHF 100 p.m. This was accepted.

For 2007, YCC fees are therefore as follows:

Category	Annual Fee	Entry Fee
Active members	250 CHF	100 CHF
Active juniors (a)	100 CHF	50 CHF
Friend members (b)	60 CHF	0
Honorary members (b)	0	0
Temporary members (c)	100 CHF/month	0

Preliminary 2007 Budget.

Luigi commented to the meeting that the printed version of the YCC provisional 2007 budget had already taken into account the auditors recommendations, had been reviewed by them both and may be consulted for details. The 2007 provisional budget was approved as submitted.

AOB.

1. Some discussion arose about facilitating training and perhaps affiliation with an organisation such as the (British) RYA (Royal Yachting Association), or local CCS, partly to validate and enhance our own teaching. Acquiring a Radio users' license should also be encouraged. The Committee will look into this.

2. A rejoining member discovered that "none of his keys" were still valid, and that he was expected to pass a test to reacquire rights of use of boats. Tomasz explained that the thinking behind this was that the fleet evolved and a returning member might well be completely unacquainted with a given boat - as an example, the Dart catamarans were long gone, replaced by two Mystères which were bigger and more demanding to sail correctly. Bureaucracy would be avoided as far as possible, and there was no intention to impede use of the boats, rather to ensure complete familiarity with them, so re-passing a test should be a routine matter for many.

The Meeting closed at 20:05 and participants adjourned to Le Smash for the Annual Dinner, kindly organised by Marion Lindsay.

(NOTE: the innovation of combining the GM with the Annual Dinner was widely welcomed and recommended for the future.)